



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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BOSTON FISH LANDINGS REFLECT RECENT TIE-UPS

Production figures indicate the New England fisheries have been hard hit as a result of recent controversies concerning war-risk insurance at the port of Boston, according to statistics released today from the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

For the first five weeks of 1942, following the initial cessation of fishing on January 5, total landings at the Boston Fish Pier and sold over the New England Fish Exchange amounted to 11,284,000 pounds valued at \$745,000. This compares with a catch of 21,073,000 pounds valued at \$915,000, for the same period last year, a 46 percent decline in catch, and a 19 percent drop-off in value to the fishermen.

Perhaps most reflective of results caused by these weeks of enforced idleness are the catch and value figures for the reported period of February 2-7 (February 3-8, in 1941). Last year, at that time, 5,838,000 pounds of fishery products were landed, worth, at the Pier, \$217,936--an average price per hundred pounds of \$3.73. The catch for the first reported week in February this year shows 1,061,000 pounds, worth \$80,566, however--an average price of \$7.59 per hundred pounds landed.

Average price per hundred pounds during all 1941 was \$3.86. Since the week of December 29, 1941--January 3, 1942, the average has mounted steadily during the lay-up period from \$5.58 to the recent \$7.59 high of February 2-7.

Not concerned in the vessel tie-up were the miscellaneous fleet of inshore fishing vessels. Most profoundly affected, however, were the large otter trawlers, offshore boats of about 150 gross tons and over. These number about 50 vessels; comprise about 15 or 20 percent of Boston's entire fishing fleet, and are normally responsible for the catch of such deeper-sea species as cod, haddock, flounders, pollock, etc. Crewed usually by about 20 fishermen, the famed Massachusetts port's large otter trawlers customarily account for the bulk of the annual quarter billion pound catch landed here by fishing vessels, and perhaps a third of the total vessel catch of all New England.

A comparison of the number of trips made by Boston's fleet for the last two weeks in January and the first two weeks in February, shows that 61 vessels of the offshore type reported landings during the period this year, as against 184 in 1941 - a 67 percent decrease in vessels fishing. For all types of vessels, the records show a 40 percent decrease in number of trips--387 this year, as against 642 in 1941, for the period up to February 15.

It is to be noted in the following table, that the effects of the controversy are reflected neither in landings nor prices for some little time after January 5. This, it is explained, is because some of the boats had gone out to their fishing grounds immediately prior to this date.

BOSTON

Landings and Average Prices 1941 - 1942

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	Pounds	Avg. Prices	Value	Pounds	Avg. Prices	Value
Dec. 30 - Jan. 4	3,079,000	4.24	\$130,487	2,841,000	5.58	\$158,493
Jan. 6 - Jan. 11	3,263,000	4.69	153,028	3,952,000	5.70	225,106
Jan. 13 - Jan. 18	3,896,000	4.65	181,035	2,847,000	7.17	204,113
Jan. 20 - Jan. 25	4,709,000	4.42	208,286	1,365,000	6.88	93,988
Jan. 27 - Feb. 1	3,368,000	4.60	154,840	2,059,000	6.85	141,091
Feb. 3 - Feb. 8	5,838,000	3.73	217,936	1,061,000	7.59	80,566
Feb. 10 - Feb. 15	5,384,000	3.68	198,023	1,227,000	(Not yet reported)	

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